

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

SPECIAL COUNCIL: 15TH JANUARY, 2024

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 14TH DECEMBER, 2023

“C183 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME (EL/PR) (SCRUTINY – CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND RESOURCES) –

The Leader presented the report, the purpose of which was to confirm the re-adoption of the Council Tax Reduction National Scheme for 2024/2025 based on regulations and to reconfirm the Council’s discretions. The discretionary elements were outlined in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

Councillor Williams said the matter had to be considered annually and showed support for people in need, armed forces and veterans in the Vale of Glamorgan.

This was a matter for Executive decision and for referral to Full Council in January 2024.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T Cabinet recommended to Full Council that the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations SI 2013/3029 (“the Prescribed Requirements Regulations”) and the Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 SI 2014/66 be adopted.

(2) T H A T Cabinet recommended to Full Council to note that any amendments to Regulations made by the Welsh Government be reflected in the scheme.

(3) T H A T Cabinet recommended to Full Council that the national scheme be adopted with the following discretions:

- That the Council should continue to allow Extended Payments up to a maximum of 4 weeks.
- That the Council should continue to disregard War Widow and War Disablement pensions in assessing income for Council Tax Reduction.
- That the Council should continue to allow Backdated Reductions for a period up to 26 weeks.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To enable the Council Tax Reduction Scheme to be approved by Council by 31st January, 2024 and be in place for implementation from 1st April, 2024.
- (2) Extended payments should continue to be for up to 4 weeks as this provided an incentive for customers to move into work and allow them time to receive their first pay. The numbers affected by this would also continue to decline as customers moved onto Universal Credit and extended payments then did not apply.
- (3) War Widow and War Disablement pensions should continue to be disregarded to allow the Council to continue to support Veterans and their families. Backdates should continue to be allowed for a maximum of 26 weeks to allow help to those with genuine cases for not applying sooner and to remove some of the burden of debt. Those cases would often otherwise be passed for further recovery action, putting further pressure upon them.”